Finance Corporation on the pattern of the ongoing Ultra Mega Power Projects. The views of the State Government are awaited.

Shortage of coal stock at thermal stations

1015. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether thermal stations face severe shortage of coal stocks;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial action taken to manage the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) There has been a depletion of coal stocks at some power plants during this year. However, as per CEA, it has not affeted generation, which has registered a growth of 4% during April-October, 2007 compared to corresponding period of previous year.

(b) The major reasons for stock depletion in those Thermal Power Stations include increase in Plant Load Factor or some power stations, unloading constraints at power house end, less availability of coal from Captive mines of Power Utilities, Law and Order problems which affect both coal mining and despatch, inventory control by some of the power stations, less import of coal *viz-a-viz* the targetted level, transportation constraints in evacuation of coal from mines to sidings, adverse geo-mining conditions, problems relating to land acquisition etc.

(c) In order to ensure adequate supply of coal to all power utilities, the supply of coal is reviewed by the Standing Linkage Committee (Short-term), which is an inter-ministerial body, on a quarterly basis. There is also a Sub-group under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary comprising the representatives of Ministry of Power, Railways and Central Electricity Authority to monitor supply of coal to various power stations. The corrective measures taken by the Sub-group from time to time in the past have ensured sufficient supply of coal to various power utilities to prevent loss of generation of power due to non availability of coal.

Royalty on coal and other minerals

†1016. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that States are facing difficulty as royalty on coal and other minerals is not revised;

(b) if so, whether State Governments have demanded that royalty should be revised;

(c) if so, the decision taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) whether Government would compensate for the loss incurred by States due to non-revision of royalty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (d) The royalty rates on coal and lignite have been revised with effect from 01.08.2007. The royalty rates on coal were earlier revised on 16.08.2002. Section 9(3) of the Minies and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 empowers the Central Government to enhance or reduce the royalty rates in respect of any mineral by notification

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.